



[Clinical Club CPD](#) | [Coronavirus Update](#) | [Information for referring vets](#) | [Contact us](#)

Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

During the Coronavirus pandemic it is more important than ever for us to keep in touch with colleagues in private practice, and to offer them whatever assistance we are able. This newsletter replaces the one we would normally send you in the post and looks at two case studies – one from our new Ophthalmology Service and the other featuring work by our Orthopaedic Service and the Royal (Dick) Edinburgh Physiotherapy Assessment & Intensive Rehabilitation (REPAIR) Centre. As always, we hope that you find it interesting and useful.



Coronavirus has presented the Dick Vet Hospital for Small Animals many of the same challenges that you are facing and so we've worked hard to find ways to continue to offer you help. The latest information for referring vets can always be found on our website and if you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

As part of our adaptations, our free monthly [Clinical Club CPD](#) has now moved to a webinar format and currently runs every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. It still features leading vets from across the Hospital and a range of fantastic topics. Talks are also available online for seven days after they air. You can find a list of upcoming webinars further down this e-mail with links to join the sessions. Please feel free to pass this along to anyone you know who would like to receive information on our webinars or news from the Hospital, or ask them to e-mail vet.marketing@ed.ac.uk to subscribe.

We want to help you in any way we can, whether it is seeing the case that cannot wait, helping you with the cases that we would never see in normal circumstances, or helping with cases that cannot travel. All our disciplines are available to discuss cases and provide tailored advice. Please phone us on 0131 650 7650 and our 'remote reception' can direct emergency calls appropriately, or for less urgent cases, email us on HFSAreception@ed.ac.uk.

I am proud of the way the profession is pulling together in these challenging times. We at the Dick Vet are trying to do our part.

Kind Regards,

Sue Murphy

Dick Vet Clinical Case Studies

The Dick Vet Ophthalmology Service - Deep Corneal Ulceration

The Dick Vet Ophthalmology Service sees a wide range of cases, both in conjunction with other services at the HfSA and also referred directly from colleagues in private practice. We're always willing to provide advice via the [advice enquiries system](#) and look forward to working with you.

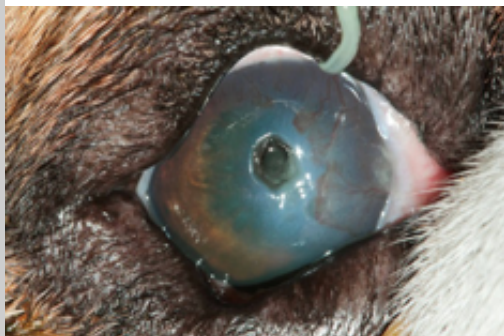


Figure 1

Rubble, a three-year-old old bulldog, presented to the Ophthalmology Service with a two-week history of a corneal ulcer that was not improving. He was found to have a central descemetocoele affecting his right eye (figure 1). The eye was very fragile, so he was admitted to the Hospital for surgery the same day. A corneal cytology and culture sample were taken, and this subsequently showed only neutrophils and epithelial cells; no infectious agents were seen.



Figure 2

Under general anaesthesia and neuromuscular blockade (to maintain a central eye during surgery), a partial thickness flap of adjacent, healthy cornea was elevated, along with the limbus and conjunctiva. This flap, known as a corneconjunctival transposition (or CCT for short) was advanced into the defect and sutured in place with 9-0 absorbable suture material (figure 2). Rubble was discharged the following day with orders for strict rest, a buster collar, systemic NSAID and topical chloramphenicol eye drops (QID); a single drop of atropine had been applied to the eye at the time of surgery to dilate the pupil and to try to avoid a reflex uveitis.

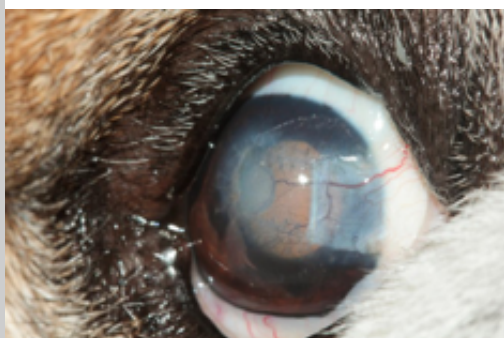


Figure 3

Conventional wisdom suggests any defect deeper than 50% of corneal depth should undergo surgery. Many veterinary ophthalmologists these days opt for a more conservative approach, as even deep stromal defects can heal with supportive management (e.g. hospitalisation and intense medical management with antibiotics and serum eye drops, alongside newer techniques such as corneal cross-linking).

By allowing the cornea to heal itself, scarring is minimised, and long-term visual outcome is often better. Where there is a descemetocoele, however, the cornea is so weak that it could rupture at any time, and surgery should be performed. The CCT is a versatile and robust graft. Since the repair is using the body's own tissue, risk of graft rejection is low. The transposed cornea gives a strong repair with transparent tissue (unlike, for example, the conjunctival pedicle graft which has little strength and is opaque).

The CCT can also be harvested from vascularised cornea, in which case the graft brings its own blood supply which further adds to the resistance of the graft to infection and dehiscence.

Figure 3 shows the cornea 6 weeks after surgery – the sutures have resorbed, and the vascularisation is regressing. The limbus and conjunctiva remain on the cornea and can be seen as a white translucent opacity on the right of the picture. The transposed cornea is mainly transparent, affording Rubble good vision. The corneal scarring (fibrosis) will continue to improve over the next year.

If you'd like to find out more about the Ophthalmology Service, please [visit our website](#).

We are always happy to work with our referring veterinary colleagues; please visit our [advice page](#) to find out how to

get in touch.

Orthopaedics and the REPAIR Service work together for best outcomes

The Dick Vet Orthopaedic Service has expert clinicians and advanced facilities for many orthopaedic operations. They often work closely with the REPAIR Centre to provide continued care where needed.

Kass is an eight-year-old male border collie, who was presented to the Orthopaedic Service with a non-weight bearing left hind limb lameness. He was found to have a cranial cruciate rupture and taken to surgery, where he underwent a tibial plateau levelling osteotomy (TPLO) and partial medial menisectomy.

As with all our orthopaedic patients, Kass was assessed as an in-patient by physiotherapists in the REPAIR centre, the day after his operation. As expected, Kass was weight bearing consistently on the operated limb and appeared comfortable. The physiotherapists started treatment to encourage even better weight bearing and to facilitate Kass' rehabilitation.

Kass went home with a comprehensive home exercise plan, returning four weeks later for a follow-up appointment. We aim to reassess our patients regularly during their recovery, to allow individualised adjustments to their rehabilitation plans.

In response to Kass' progress, we adapted his plan and combined his physiotherapy with hydrotherapy and exercises for his owners to continue at home, with the aim of restoring full weight bearing, flexibility and increasing strength. His programme included exercises such as hip stretches, balance and weight shifting activities, walking over cavaletti poles and walking in the underwater treadmill. The treadmill allows patients to build up muscle strength whilst reducing the load being carried by recovering joints, as well as providing resistance training.

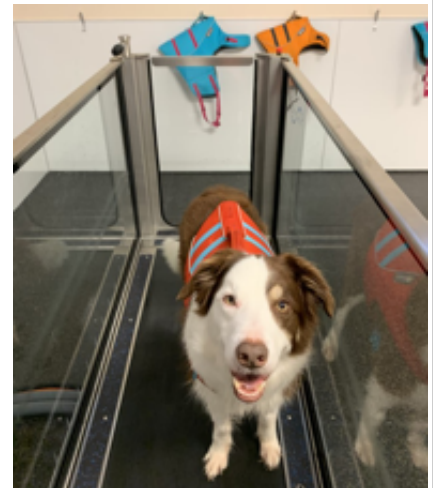
After a course of seven physiotherapy and hydrotherapy sessions with the REPAIR centre, Kass was doing very well, with objective assessments showing symmetrical weight bearing on both hind limbs was equal, and restoration of the muscle mass lost through injury and convalescence.

We are delighted that Kass is now back to normal, enjoying his obedience training and running off the lead!

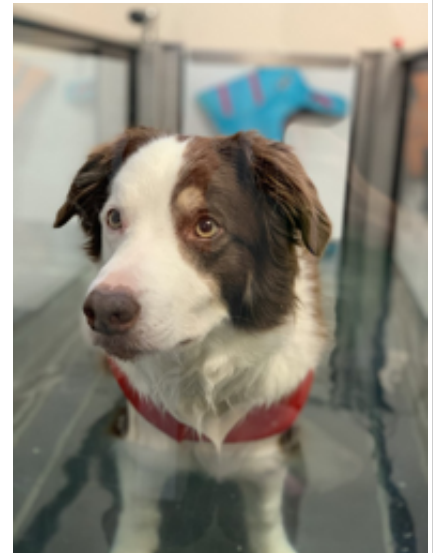
The REPAIR centre was founded to help understand how physiotherapy can benefit pets with disease and after treatment and works closely with the Orthopaedic Service surgical team at the Dick Vet.



Kass



Preparing for hydrotherapy



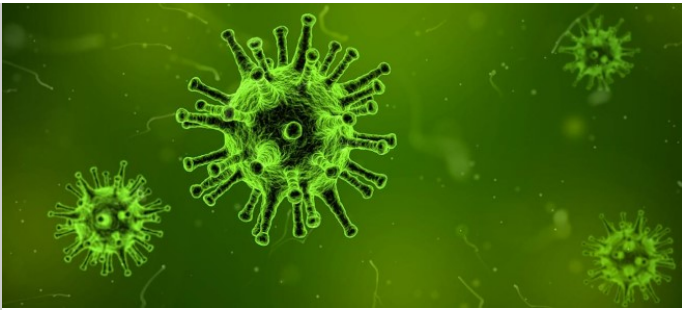
Using the treadmill

Dick Vet News Bites

A selection of stories from around the Dick Vet. Visit our website, or follow us on social media, for more.

The Roslin Institute broadens research tackling Covid-19

Ticks cause potentially curable condition in cats



Researchers at the Roslin Institute are taking part in global efforts to better understand and develop therapies for the ongoing coronavirus infection.

Their work could help ease the impact of the latest SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus outbreak, which has already caused millions of cases of Covid-19 across the world.

[Find out more.](#)

Staff have top downloaded papers

Hulda Hardardottir, Silke Salavati, Craig Breheny, Alisdair Boag, Tim Nuttall and Danielle Gunn-Moore were among staff who had had top downloaded papers in the Equine Veterinary Journal and the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine - 2018-2019.

[Paper 1](#), [Paper 2](#), [Paper 3](#)

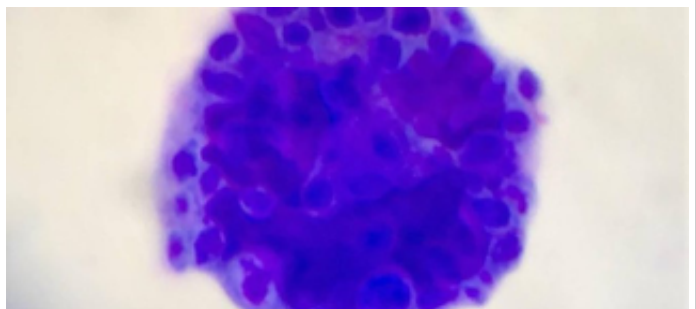
Data cleaning method lends insights into dog health



Experts at the Dick Vet have treated the first cases of cats with abnormally low heart rates brought on by Lyme disease – a bacterial infection transmitted by tick bites.

[Find out more.](#)

Cat's treatment highlights risk of rare infection



Treatment of a rare but potentially serious fungal disease in cats has highlighted the risk of similar infections in animals and their owners.

The emerging disease, caused by *Sporothrix humicola*, which has been reported only once in the UK and five times in the world, is most likely to affect animals and humans with compromised immune systems.

[Find out more.](#)



The School's scientists are gaining accurate insights into the healthy development of Labrador retriever puppies, thanks to a new method of removing errors in data from surveys.

The technique to keep data clean is the latest outcome from a long-term, large-scale study into the health of the UK's most popular breed of dog.

[Find out more.](#)

The Dick Vet Hospital for Small Animals Clinical Club

**May
20**

'Management of Chronic Otitis.'
Tim Nuttall
7:30pm

[Access Webinar here](#)

**May
27**

'Principles of surgical oncology.'
Kelly Blacklock
7:30pm

[Access Webinar here](#)

**June
3**

'Chemotherapy in a nutshell – safety, protocols, drug doses and other considerations.'
Spela Bavcar

**June
10**

'Spinal localisation - what you need to know.'
Pablo Amengual-Batle and Anna Sunol Iniesta
7:30pm

[Access Webinar here](#)

**June
17**

'Analgesia and anaesthesia of rabbits.'
Kevin Eatwell
7:30pm

[Access Webinar here](#)

June

'Feline Lower Urinary Tract

7:30pm

[Access Webinar here](#)

24

Disease – practical management.'

Danielle Gunn-Moore

7:30pm

[Access Webinar here](#)

For more information on upcoming talks or help joining the sessions, visit our website [here](#).

Follow us on social media



The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies is a one-of-a-kind centre of excellence in clinical activity, teaching and research. Our purpose-built campus, set against the backdrop of the beautiful Pentland Hills Regional Park, is home to more than eight hundred staff and almost fourteen hundred students, all of whom contribute to our exceptional community ethos.

The School comprises:

[The Roslin Institute](#)

[The Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security](#)

[The Roslin Innovation Centre](#)

[The Hospital for Small Animals](#)

[Equine Veterinary Services](#)

[Farm Animal Services](#)

[Easter Bush Pathology](#)

[The Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education](#)

We represent the largest concentration of animal science related expertise in Europe, impacting local, regional, national and international communities in terms of economic growth, the provision of clinical services and the advancement of scientific knowledge.

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